

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: TWELVE SOMALI STUDENTS SENTENCED TO PRISON

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: TWELVE STUDENTS WERE SENTENCED TO PRISON BY THE NATIONAL SECURITY COURT FOR ORGANIZING A STRIKE AT THE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE & AGRICULTURE IN AFGOI LAST DECEMBER. FOLLOWING MATERIAL REPORTED IN OCTOBER STAR AND SONNA NEWS BULLETIN, JAN. 15. REPORT AS FOLLOWS: "THE NATIONAL SECURITY COURT JAN. 13 SENTENCED THREE STUDENTS TO FOUR YEARS IMPRISONMENT EACH AND NINE OTHERS TO THREE YEARS EACH AFTER FINDING THEM GUILTY OF AN ILLEGAL STRIKE.

THE TWELVE STUDENTS STUDYING AT FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND AGRICULTURE AT LAFOLE COLLEGE, AFGOI PLEADED NOT GUILTY TO THE CHARGES, BUT THE PROSECUTOR BROUGHT BEFORE THE COURT 19 WITNESSES WHO GAVE EVIDENCE TO THE EFFECT THAT THE STUDENTS COMMITTED THE CRIME BETWEEN DECEMBER 12 AND 13 LAST YEAR. THE PROSECUTOR TOLD THE COURT THAT THE STUDENTS ILLEGALLY ORGANIZED THE STRIKE IN ORDER TO DAMAGE THE COUNTRY'S STABILITY AND AT THE SAME TIME DISOPEYED A DECISION PASSED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND CULTURE.

THE THREE STUDENTS WHO WERE SENTENCED TO FOUR YEARS IMPRISONMENT EACH ARE ABDULKADIR IOW ALI, ABDURAHMAN HAJI MOHAMED HUSSEIN AND HASSAN ALI WARSAME.

THE NINE, WHO WERE SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS EACH ARE:
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MOHAMED ABDURAHMAN JIBRIL, MOHAMED HASSAN FARAH, MOHAMED

KHALIF SHEIKH YUSUF, AHMED HASHI FARAH, ABDULLAHI NOOR
FARAH, ABDULKADIR HUSSEIN NUR, ABOKAR OSMAN ABIKAR AND
DAHIR ASKAR BILE" END UNCLASSIFIED.

BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE - COMMENT: ACCORDING TO LOCAL
SOURCE, STUDENTS' STIPEND (FOOD & POCKET ALLOWANCE) ORDERED
CUT OFF DURING 3 MONTHS FORCED VACATION AS AN ECONOMY MEASURE,
BUT STUDENTS PROTESTED IT WOULD CAUSE UNDUE HARDSHIP ON THOSE
WHO DEPENDED ENTIRELY ON STIPEND. WHEN STUDENTS DEMAND FOR
STIPEND WAS REFUSED BY HIGHER EDUCATION SECRETARY, THEY
CALLED A FOOD STRIKE. THE SECRETARY LECTURED THE
STUDENTS AND CALLED THEM ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY, IRRESPONSIBLE
AND NOT CONCERNED ABOUT WELFARE OF COUNTRY, AT WHICH POINT STUDENTS
BOOED. SECRETARY REQUESTED ALL STUDENTS INTERNED BUT HEAD
OF SECURITY COUNSELLED LESS DRASTIC MEASURES, PROMISED
SOME OF THE STIPEND WOULD BE ADVANCED, AND PROMISED FREE
TRANSPORTATION HOME. LEADERS, HOWEVER, GIVEN STIFF PRISON TERMS
TO EMPHASIZE GOVERNMENT'S INTOLERANCE TO STRIKES. END LOU.
MACK

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